

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A portable folding room dividing partition comprising,
 - a plurality of articulated panels,
 - vertical hinges connected between the panels,
 - two of the panels located at the ends of the partition comprise carrier panels to stabilize and impart movement to the remaining panels as the partition is expanded or collapsed,
 - each of the carrier panels having a vertical end frame member with a horizontal spread end foot with wheels at the lower end thereof,
 - a duplex mount rigidly connecting the spread end foot to a bottom end of each carrier panel and at right angles thereto,
 - a pull handle connected to the vertical end frame member and aligned over each spread end foot and,
 - a plurality of inactive intermediate panels with wheels connected by means of said hinges to one another and to the carrier panels to define said partition,
 - such that movement of the carrier panels by a person gripping the pull handles acts to spread or collapse the inactive panels while providing support therefor.
2. The portable folding room partition of claim 1 wherein each pull handle is a vertically disposed U-shaped handle member that is aligned in the plane of the carrier panel to which it is attached and extends outwardly therefrom, such that a pulling force applied to the handle to expand the partition is aligned in the plane of the panel and at right angles to the plane of the spread end foot positioned therebelow.
3. The portable folding room partition of claim 1 wherein each carrier panel has 4 wheels including a pair of wheels on the spread end foot in alignment beneath the plane of the

end frame member and another pair of wheels on a second horizontal spread foot that is spaced centrally from the spread end foot such that the carrier panels aid in preventing the partition from tipping to one side as it is being moved.

4. The partition of claim 1 wherein the hinges are formed from strips of flexible resinous material having parallel edges secured between the adjacent panels of the partition and positioned alternately on opposite sides thereof.
5. The partition of claim 4 wherein the hinges are each located adjacent a side edge of one of the vertical frame members to allow the panels to pivot through an arc of 180° relative to one another.
6. The partition of claim 4 wherein each vertical frame member has first and second spaced apart vertical slots therein, each such slot is positioned proximate the side of a panel, the edges of each flexible hinge strip are secured in said slots on the same side of adjacent panels and the slots opposite each hinge strip are empty such that the adjacent panels are able to pivot at each hinge through an arc of 180°.
7. The partition of claim 1 including at least one bridging element moveably supported on the partition for holding adjacent panels in alignment with one another when the bridging element is connected therebetween.
8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the bridging element is mounted upon the top of the partition for sliding movement longitudinally thereof to a position extending between adjacent panels.
9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the bridging element is provided with internal retaining members that are slideably connected to a frame member at the top of each panel.
10. The partition of claim 1 wherein each panel includes a core surrounded by horizontally disposed top and bottom frame members and a pair of vertically disposed side frame

members and all of the frame members have the same cross-sectional configuration including a pair of outwardly opening, laterally spaced apart slots positioned between an end wall and a sidewall thereof and the hinges comprise vertically disposed, flexible resinous strips connected between said slots in the vertically disposed frame members.

11. A portable folding room dividing partition comprising,

a plurality of articulated panels,

vertical hinges connected between the panels,

and each of the panels having at least one pair of laterally spaced apart caster wheels secured to the lower end thereof,

and a moveable bridging element moveably connected to the top of the partition for movement between an inactive position to an active position connected between adjacent panels for holding said adjacent panels in alignment with one another to give the partition a wall-effect,

a plurality of inactive intermediate panels with wheels connected to one another by means of said vertical hinges and to the carrier panels to define said partition.

12. The portable folding room partition of claim 11 wherein a panel at each end of the partition has four wheels including a pair of wheels on a spread end foot in alignment beneath the plane of an end frame member thereof and another pair of wheels on a second horizontal spread foot spaced centrally from the spread end foot such that the end panels help to prevent the partition from tipping to one side as it is being moved.

13. The partition of claim 11 wherein hinges are formed from vertical strips of flexible plastic having edges secured between the adjacent panels of the partition and located alternately on opposite sides thereof.

14. The partition of claim 13 wherein the hinges are each connected between the sides of adjacent vertical frame members to permit the panels to pivot through an arc of 180° relative to one another.
15. The partition of claim 11 wherein each vertical frame member has first and second spaced apart vertical slots therein, each such slot is positioned proximate each side of an adjacent panel, the edges of each flexible hinge strip are secured in said first slots on the same side of an adjacent panel and the second slots on an opposite side thereof are empty such that the adjacent panels are able to pivot through an arc of 180°.
16. A portable folding room dividing partition comprising,
- a plurality of articulated panels,
 - vertical hinges connected between the panels,
 - each of the panels including a central core formed from sheet material, a pair of horizontally disposed top and bottom frame members, vertically disposed side frame members along each side of each panel and,
 - at least the vertical frame members having a pair of laterally spaced apart sidewalls and an end wall and having outwardly opening longitudinally extending slots between the end wall and each of the sidewalls,
 - hinges are formed from strips of flexible plastic material connected between the slots on the same side of adjacent panels to allow the partitions to articulate relative to one another and,
 - the panels have wheels and are connected to one another by means of said hinges and to the carrier panels to define said partition.
17. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the hinge strips each include a flat center section and a pair of longitudinally extending enlarged beads of resinous material having a larger cross-

section than said central portion and the enlarged beads are slideably positioned within the slots of the vertical frame members.

18. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the slots each include an enlarged lumen and an opening of a width that is less than the cross-section of the lumen for holding an edge of the flexible hinge strip in engagement with the frame member.
19. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein each panel includes a core surrounded by vertically disposed side frame members, horizontally disposed top and bottom frame members and all such frame members have the same cross-sectional configuration and a bridging member is movably connected to the panels for holding the panels in alignment.
20. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein at least one panel at one end of the partition includes,
a horizontally disposed laterally extending spread end foot with caster wheels at the end thereof,
the spread end foot is connected to a longitudinally extending bottom frame member by a duplex mounting plate having laterally extending arms that are aligned over the spread end foot and are rigidly connected thereto and a pair of longitudinally extending arms.
21. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein a longitudinal plate is sandwiched between the longitudinal arms and the bottom frame member.
22. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one panel at one end of the partition includes,
a horizontally disposed laterally extending spread end foot with caster wheels at the end thereof,
the spread end foot is connected to a longitudinally extending bottom frame member by a duplex mounting plate having laterally extending arms that are aligned over

the spread end foot and are rigidly connected thereto and a pair of longitudinally extending arms.

23. The apparatus of claim 22 wherein a longitudinal plate is sandwiched between the longitudinal arms and the bottom frame member.

24. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the duplex mount has lateral wings connected to the spread end foot and longitudinal arms that are connected to the bottom end of a carrier panel.